

Modal Verbs / Revision

Modal auxiliaries are also sometimes called modal verbs or modals.

The following are modal auxiliaries:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past form</u>
can	could
may	might
will	would
shall	should
must	----
ought to	----
need	----

- They can be followed by the infinitive in different forms:

Modal +	Active	Passive
	<i>bare infinitive:</i> must take <i>be + present participle:</i> must be taking <i>have + past participle:</i> must have taken <i>have been + present participle:</i> must have been taking	<i>be + past participle:</i> must be taken <i>have been + past participle:</i> must have been taken

Notes:

- Need** can be a modal auxiliary only in the question or negative form. (e.g. They **needn't** come if they don't want to.)
- Must** and **can't** are used to make deductions.
e.g. You **must be** tired after your long journey. (I'm sure you are)
That **can't be** Sue. She is in Brazil. (I'm sure it's not possible)
- Be bound to** is used to say that something is certain to happen in the future.
e.g. You're **bound to** see Paula if you go there. (I'm sure you will)

Exercises

Ex. 1 Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- There's someone at the door. It can/ must be the postman.
- Don't worry, you don't have to / mustn't pay now.
- I think you had better / would better take a pullover with you.
- Jones could / must be president if Smith has to resign.
- Sorry, I can't stay any longer. I have to / might go.
- It was 5 o'clock an hour ago. Your watch can't / mustn't be right.
- It's a school rule, all the pupils have to / must wear a uniform.
- I suppose that our team must / should win, but I'm not sure.
- Let's tell Anna. She could / might not know.
- In my opinion, the government might / should do something about this.

Ex. 2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given.

Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- I think you should give up smoking immediately.
I think you _____ smoking immediately. **had**
- I expect we will get there by 5.00, if there isn't too much traffic.
We _____ 5.00, if there isn't too much traffic. **should**
- Is it necessary for me to bring my passport?
Do _____ my passport? **have**
- I am sure that the cat is in the house somewhere.
The cat _____ in the house somewhere. **be**
- An aerial is not required with this radio.
You don't _____ an aerial with this radio. **have**

6. It is very inconvenient if you can't drive.
It's very inconvenient if _____ drive. **to**
7. I am sure that John is not the thief.
John _____ the thief. **be**
8. I am certain that Norman will be late.
Norman _____ late. **bound**
9. All students should report to the main hall at 9.00.
All students _____ to the main hall at 9.00. **are**
10. I thought that you would know better!
You _____ better! **ought**

Ex. 3 Underline the most suitable word or phrase in each sentence.

1. We can't be lost. *It isn't allowed / I don't believe it.*
2. Jane is bound to be late. *She always is / She must be.*
3. Late-comers are to report to the main office. *It's a good idea / It's the rule.*
4. You don't have to stay *unless it's necessary / if you don't want to.*
5. Astronauts must feel afraid sometimes. *They are supposed to / It's only natural.*
6. You can't come in here. *It isn't allowed / I don't believe it.*
7. All motorcyclists have to wear crash helmets. *It's a good idea / It's the rule.*
8. I ought not to tell Jack. *It's a good idea / It's the rule.*
9. We should be there soon. *I expect so / It's absolutely certain.*
10. You'd better leave now. *That's my advice / That's an order!*

Ex. 4 Rewrite each sentence so that it contains **can, could, must, have to** or **should** (including negative forms).

1. I'm sure that Helen feels really lonely.
2. You're not allowed to park here.
3. It would be a good idea if Harry took a holiday.
4. I'm sure that Brenda isn't over thirty.
5. Do I need a different driving licence for a motorbike?
6. What would you advise me to do?
7. Mary knows how to stand on her head.
8. You needn't come with me if you don't want to.
9. It's possible for anyone to break into this house!
10. The dentist will see you soon. I don't think he'll be long.

Ex. 5 Rewrite the following sentences using a modal. The underlined words can be written as subject + modal + verb (or modal + subject + verb in questions). In some sentences, more than one modal is possible.

1. I promise to phone you next week. e. g. I will / I'll phone you next week.
2. At the age of nine, he still didn't know how to read.
3. It's essential that we leave on time tomorrow morning.
4. Are you able to come with me tonight?
5. It's not a good idea for you to work so hard.
6. It's possible that they'll be here soon.
7. Why don't we go and see a film tonight?
8. He said that he intended to write to me soon.
9. Is it possible for me to sit here?
10. He refuses to give me an answer.
11. It's not necessary for you to apologize.
12. Am I allowed to smoke in here?
13. He knew how to speak four languages by the time he was twelve.
14. I want to help you but I'm not able to.
15. I think it's a good idea for me to stay in tonight: I've got a lot of work to do.
16. I don't know who she is but it's possible that she's Rick's sister.
17. Do not tell him any of this: it's vital that it remains a secret.
18. I intend to finish this essay before I go to bed.
19. It's 7 o'clock. I assume that Claire will be here soon.
20. He's in but he's not answering the phone. I'm sure that he's asleep.